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downward, so as to make the ink supply unit 175 fitted onto the recess 183 and make the needle 181 pierce the ink supply unit 175, thereby enabling a supply of ink. As the lever 192 is further pressed down, a clutch 193 disposed on a free end of the lever 192 engages with a mating element 189 disposed on the cartridge attachment unit 18. This fixes the ink cartridge 107K to the cartridge attachment unit 18. In this state, the plurality of connection terminals 174 on the storage element 80 in the ink cartridge 107K electrically connect with the plurality of electrodes 185 on the cartridge attachment unit 18. This enables transmission of data between the printer main body 100 and the storage element 80.--

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Add claims 94-114:

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--94. (New) An ink cartridge according to claim 1, wherein the ink quantity-relating information is written in the storage area before other information is written in the storage area.

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95. (New) An ink cartridge according to claim 1, wherein when the printer reads information from the ink cartridge, the printer accesses the ink quantity information storage area

96. (New) An ink cartridge according to claim 1, wherein when the printer reads information from the ink cartridge, the printer accesses the ink quantity information storage area before accessing other portions of the storage unit.